

## CHANGING THE DISTRIBUTION OF COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY CHARTS

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JUNE 8, 1956.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State  
of the Union and ordered to be printed

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Mr. BONNER, from the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries,  
submitted the following

### R E P O R T

[To accompany H. R. 5147]

The Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 5147) to change the distribution of Coast and Geodetic Survey charts, having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and recommend that the bill do pass.

#### PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The bill (H. R. 5147) would increase from 10 to 100 the number of Coast and Geodetic Survey charts presently authorized for distribution to Members of Congress. For many years, free distribution of these charts has been an accepted and historic prerogative of the Congress. However, experience shows that those Members from areas contiguous to our coastlines usually have need for additional charts. Passage of this bill would supply that need.

The departmental reports are as follows:

THE SECRETARY OF COMMERCE,  
*Washington, D. C., June 10, 1955.*

HON. HERBERT C. BONNER,  
*Chairman, Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries,  
House of Representatives, Washington 25, D. C.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: This letter is in reply to your request of March 31, 1955, for the views of this Department with respect to H. R. 5147, a bill to change the distribution of Coast and Geodetic Survey charts.

H. R. 5147 would increase from 10 to 100 the free distribution of charts on the order of Senators, Representatives, and Delegates.

The free distribution of these charts has been an accepted and his-

toric prerogative of the Congress, since the original legislation authorizing such distribution was enacted in 1895.

It has been found that not all Members of Congress exercise the authorization of this distribution, but usually only those Members from areas contiguous to our coastlines. Thus, the increase in number of charts distributed as proposed by this bill should be modest.

This Department would interpose no objection to the enactment of this legislation.

The Bureau of the Budget has advised that it would interpose no objection to the submission of this report to the Committee.

Sincerely yours,

SINCLAIR WEEKS,  
*Secretary of Commerce.*

#### CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW

In compliance with clause 3 of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, changes in existing law made by the bill, as introduced, are shown as follows (existing law proposed to be omitted is enclosed in black brackets, new matter is printed in italics, existing law in which no change is proposed is shown in roman):

#### §246. Coast and Geodetic Survey, Charts; sale and distribution.

The charts published by the Coast and Geodetic Survey shall be sold at cost of paper and printing as nearly as practicable; and there shall be no free distribution of such charts except to the departments and officers of the United States requiring them for public use; and a number of copies of each sheet, not to exceed three hundred, to be presented to such foreign governments, libraries, and scientific associations, and institutions of learning as the Secretary of Commerce may direct; but on the order of Senators, Representatives, and Delegates not to exceed [ten] *one hundred* copies to each may be distributed through the Director of the Coast and Geodetic Survey.